

the same unit as the high proportion of pipe stems. This disproportional distribution did not occur with respect to any other artifact class, thus obviating the question of there simply being more artifacts in that unit due to higher incidence of trash disposal. Since pipe smoking and wine drinking may be legitimately related to social activities, the idea that the cellar was being used as a refuge becomes more enticing. Great caution must be exercised, however, to avoid reconstructing specific activities on the basis of such evidence. It is, perhaps, best to leave the issue with the simple interpretation that differential distribution of pipe stems and wine bottle glass in the wash level are indicative of a special social activity area located in the southwest corner of the cellar.

Chronology--It has been mentioned in the foregoing section on Stratum I that the floor had been sealed after 1770. Artifacts from the wash provide evidence that this did not occur prior to ca. 1795. This date is based upon the occurrence of underglaze polychrome hand painted pearlware in the fill. In addition, other pearlwares dating after ca. 1790 were also widely distributed in the level. It is cautioned, however, that the 1795 date for the polychrome decoration is only approximate and could easily be extended backwards. The preponderance of the dating evidence, however, does argue for a late filling.

When the processes involved in the accumulation of the wash are considered, however, this late date may be more indicative of the later years of its filling than of the actual beginning date for the deposit. South's Mean Ceramic Date formula provides archaeologists with a tool to evaluate just this sort of problem. The formula was applied to the ceramic assemblage from the wash and yielded a date of 1789.10, with a standard deviation of 19 years. Pipe stem dating formulae were also applied to the wash layer, and yielded dates varying from Heighton and Deagan's 1782.87 to Binford's 1800.66. These mathematically derived dates provide clues to the time involved in the accumulation of the wash.

It is possible that the material began to wash through the bulkhead shortly after the final renovations to the cellar walls, and continued to accumulate for a number of years. Unfortunately, the historical record provides no clues to the occupancy of the property during this period. At any rate, the wash level was not sealed until after ca. 1795, a date which is substantiated by subsequent fills.

Stratum III--Dark Clay Loam

Above the wash was found a uniform stratum of dark brown clay loam. The darkness of the level, in combination with its relatively high artifact content (25 percent of the total cellar assemblage), can be taken as evidence that the level was the result of intentional